

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 579

By Cobb C

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the good people of Bedford County on the occasion of the county's bicentennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, bountiful and beautiful Bedford County and its citizens are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they celebrate this year the bicentennial anniversary of the county's founding; and

WHEREAS, after treaties opened up Middle Tennessee for settlement in 1805, the land now comprising Bedford County was originally part of Rutherford County, but in 1807, citizens south of the junction of the Stones River and the Duck River petitioned the State of Tennessee to form a new county ;and

WHEREAS, these good people asked that their new county be named in memory of Thomas Bedford, Jr., a Revolutionary War hero who was instrumental in the growth of Jefferson Springs, which was for a while the county seat to Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, in response to their petition, the General Assembly established Bedford County on December 3, 1807; and

WHEREAS Bedford County grew rapidly from its inception and in 1830, was the largest county in Tennessee in terms of population; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County was originally twice its present size, including all of present-day Lincoln and Moore counties, the eastern part of present-day Marshall County, and the western part of present-day Coffee County, before boundary changes in 1835, 1836, and 1871,

reduced its physical size, but not the indomitable spirit nor the magnanimous heart of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1810, Clement Cannon donated 100 acres of land to establish a county seat, Shelbyville, which was named in honor of Isaac Shelby, an American pioneer, Revolutionary War hero, and governor of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, other flourishing municipalities in the county are Wartrace, Bell Buckle, and Normandy; Bedford County is also home to several outstanding unincorporated communities where neighbors are treasured and strangers are welcome, including Unionville, Deason, Haley, Raus, Flat Creek, Himesville, Wheel, Bedford, Thompson Shop, Halls Mill, Longview, and last, but certainly not least, Rover; and

WHEREAS Bedford County's economy has been diverse throughout its illustrious history, with agriculture, industry, commerce, and tourism all making important contributions to its overall vitality; and

WHEREAS the Tennessee Walking Horse industry has been an important factor in the growth and prosperity of Shelbyville and Wartrace, and picturesque horse farms are located throughout the county; and

WHEREAS Bedford County is home to the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, which is internationally recognized as the premiere showcase of the breed; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County has played a prominent role in state government and politics over the past 200 years: two Tennessee governors, Prentice Cooper and Jim Nance McCord, were born in Bedford County, as well as an Arkansas governor, Archibald Yell. Another Tennessee governor, Don Sundquist, lived in Bedford County for eight years; and

WHEREAS, today, Bedford County still possesses its pioneering spirit, as it applies the industry and hospitality of its people and the God-given beauty of its surroundings to excel as a community that is looking forward to the challenges of tomorrow while maximizing today's ideas and innovations and embracing yesterday's history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the county will soon be holding a bicentennial celebration of its past, its present, and its future, in commemorating the 200th anniversary of the county's founding, this singular celebration will showcase Bedford County's unique heritage and spirit, its wonderful

blend of commerce and hospitality amidst its idyllic scenery, and the deeply held love of community and boundless energy and spirit of its people, which have been passed down from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the accomplishments of Bedford County and is grateful for the positive impact the county has on the State's economy and the special place it has won in the hearts of its citizens and millions of visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Bedford County is one of the great counties in Tennessee and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of Bedford County upon the celebration of the county's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community, which is a true Tennessee treasure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.